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Area Wage Survey
Tacoma, Wash.
January 1984

768-B-47

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JAN 8 1985
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U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Summary
March 1984

: T 11/984

This summary presents results of a January 1984 survey of occupational wages in the Tacoma Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, which consists of Pierce County. This is 1 of 92 areas which the Bureau of Labor Statistics surveys at the request of the Employment Standards Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor for use in administering the Service Contract Act of 1965. In addition, the Bureau conducts more extensive studies of occupational wages and related benefits in 71 other areas throughout the United States. For information on these reports and other Bureau publications, contact any BLS regional office identified on the back page.

This study covered establishments employing 50 workers or more in manufacturing; transportation, communication, and other public utilities; wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. A sample of 88 establishments employing 21,603 workers was selected to represent 271 establishments employing 39,309 workers in the area. (See table 2 for further information on the scope of the survey.) Data collected in the sample of establishments were projected to represent all establishments within the scope of the survey.

Table 1 provides hourly earnings information on office and plant workers employed in selected occupations common to a variety of industries. Occupational classification was based on a uniform set of job descriptions designed to take account of variations in job duties among establishments. The job descriptions used in the survey are available on request.

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Table 1. Hourly earnings[1] of selected occupations in Tacoma, Wash., January 1984

Occupation	Number of workers			Hourly earnings (all workers)[2]			Number of workers receiving straight-time hourly earnings (in dollars) of —																		
	All[3]	Men	Women	Mean	Median	Middle range	3.40 and under 3.80	3.80 – 4.20	4.20 – 4.60	4.60 – 5.00	5.00 – 5.40	5.40 – 5.80	5.80 – 6.20	6.20 – 7.00	7.00 – 7.80	7.80 – 8.60	8.60 – 9.40	9.40 – 10.20	10.20 – 11.00	11.00 – 11.80	11.80 – 12.60	12.60 – 13.40	13.40 – 14.20	14.20 – 15.00	15.00 – 15.80	15.80 – 16.60
Secretaries	82	1	79	8.07	7.84	6.75– 8.65	-	-	-	-	-	11	3	10	16	21	4	6	7	-	-	-	4	-	-	-
Secretaries I	10	-	10	6.57	6.55	- -	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries III	49	1	48	7.72	7.50	6.69– 8.58	-	-	-	-	-	8	1	7	12	11	1	4	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Secretaries IV	12	-	12	10.01	8.70	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	2	1	1	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Typists	27	-	24	7.28	7.82	6.65– 8.03	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	7	-	15	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Typists I	24	-	24	7.06	7.82	6.61– 8.02	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	7	-	13	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Switchboard operators	7	-	5	6.70	6.40	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators	172	-	172	6.22	6.29	5.57– 6.87	-	-	-	15	20	22	11	89	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Key entry operators I	66	-	66	5.66	5.57	5.17– 6.06	-	-	-	15	13	15	9	10	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators	115	70	45	7.88	7.66	6.94– 8.48	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	25	45	14	6	14	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators II	79	45	34	7.88	7.66	7.07– 8.01	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	41	9	-	11	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Computer operators III	18	13	5	9.08	8.94	8.19– 9.77	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	6	3	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Drafters	133	98	8	10.59	10.31	9.25–12.02	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	3	12	16	26	12	8	25	12	-	8	3	-
Drafters V	7	7	-	13.92	12.77	- -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	3	-
Electronics technicians	242	139	3	11.77	12.37	9.79–13.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	30	27	15	21	18	25	6	99	-	-	1
Electronics technicians II	173	74	-	12.48	13.90	10.29–13.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	15	15	12	17	-	99	-	-	1
Electronics technicians III	27	26	-	12.04	12.58	11.10–12.76	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	8	6	-	-	-	1
Maintenance carpenters	42	40	-	13.67	13.90	12.37–13.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	11	-	20	2	-	6	-
Maintenance electricians	117	117	-	13.43	13.25	12.58–13.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	15	19	25	37	3	-	16
Maintenance machinists	93	93	-	13.82	13.25	13.25–14.81	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	21	36	10	6	-	19
Maintenance mechanics (machinery)	176	176	-	12.32	12.05	12.05–12.65	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18	-	21	91	6	32	-	-	8
Maintenance pipefitters	53	53	-	13.74	12.58	12.58–13.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	28	-	12	-	-	13
Motor vehicle mechanics	83	83	-	13.10	13.03	12.50–13.90	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13	26	10	21	11	-	2
General maintenance workers	22	22	-	7.48	7.09	6.36– 9.33	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	6	1	4	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Stationary engineers	59	59	-	12.25	12.31	11.80–12.83	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	32	4	11	-	-	-
Truckdrivers	403	401	1	12.87	13.27	12.52–14.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	-	4	7	15	23	31	16	175	5	119	-	-
Truckdrivers, heavy truck	156	156	-	13.57	13.27	13.27–13.27	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	120	-	35	-	-
Truckdrivers, tractor-trailer	194	194	-	12.91	13.32	11.02–14.39	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	35	4	84	-	-
Shipping packers	21	6	15	7.46	8.40	5.64– 8.86	-	3	-	-	-	3	3	-	-	6	3	-	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Material handling laborers	42	38	-	8.11	9.51	4.75–10.55	-	7	-	7	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	16	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Forklift operators	299	291	8	11.45	10.40	9.88–14.11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	25	-	100	38	24	9	6	83	14	-	-
Guards	252	238	12	4.89	4.10	3.85– 5.10	6	122	36	6	27	25	1	10	-	6	2	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	-
Guards I	223	214	9	4.45	4.10	3.85– 5.05	6	122	26	6	27	25	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Guards II	23	21	-	8.23	8.75	4.25–11.62	-	-	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	8	3	-	-	-	-	-
Janitors, porters, and cleaners	208	139	69	6.10	5.38	5.29– 6.44	1	6	-	7	92	44	2	16	14	8	-	7	1	10	-	-	-	-	-	-

[1] Excludes premium pay for overtime and for work on weekends, holidays, and late shifts. Incentive payments, such as those resulting from piecework, production bonuses, and commission systems, are included in the wages reported; nonproduction bonuses are excluded. Cost-of-living allowances are considered as part of the workers' regular pay. Hourly earnings reported for salaried workers are derived from regular salaries divided by the corresponding standard hours of work. The wages of learners, apprentices, and handicapped workers are excluded. The mean is computed for each job by totaling the earnings of all workers and dividing by the number of workers. The median designates position—one-half of the workers receive the same as or more and one-half receive the same as or less than the rate shown. The middle range is defined by two rates of pay; one-fourth of the workers earn the same as or less than the lower of these rates and one-fourth earn the same as or more than the higher rate.

[3] May include data for workers not identified by sex. Similarly, for occupations with more than one level, data are included in the overall classification when a subclassification is not shown or information to subclassify is not available.

Table 2. Establishments and workers within scope of survey and number studied in Tacoma, Wash.,[1] January 1984

Industry division[2]	Minimum employment in establishments in scope of survey	Number of establishments		Workers in establishments		
		Within scope of survey[3]	Studied	Within scope of survey[4]		Studied
				Number	Percent	
All divisions	50	271	88	39,309	100	21,603
Manufacturing	50	81	29	15,795	40	9,322
Nonmanufacturing[5]	50	190	59	23,514	60	12,281

[1] The Tacoma Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, as defined by the Office of Management and Budget through February 1974, consists of Pierce County. The "workers within scope of survey" estimates shown in this table provide a reasonably accurate description of the size and composition of the labor force included in the survey. The estimates are not intended, however, to serve as a basis of comparison with other statistical series for the area to measure employment trends or levels since (1) planning of wage surveys requires the use of establishment data compiled considerably in advance of the payroll period studied, and (2) small establishments are excluded from the scope of the survey.

[2] The 1972 edition of the Standard Industrial Classification Manual was used in classifying establishments by industry division.

[3] Includes all establishments with total employment at or above the minimum limitation. All outlets of companies in such industries as trade, finance, auto repair service, and motion picture theaters (within a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area or nonmetropolitan county) are considered as one establishment.

[4] Includes all workers in all establishments with total employment (within the area) at or above the minimum limitation.

[5] Includes transportation, communication, and other public utilities (excluding taxicabs and services incidental to water transportation); wholesale trade; retail trade; finance, insurance, and real estate; hotels and other lodging places; laundries and other personal services; automobile repair, rental, and parking; motion pictures; nonprofit membership organizations (excluding religious and charitable organizations); engineering and architectural services; and miscellaneous business services. Major industries excluded from this survey are agriculture; mining; construction; some services (notably educational institutions and medical services); and government operations.

· U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1984-421-265/1240

915-376

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